

journal

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BPA makes green power purchase

BPA is adding more clean emission-free energy to its power supply portfolio this fall with a new 20-year agreement to purchase 50 megawatts of capacity from PPM Energy's Klondike Wind Power III project near Wasco, Ore. This cost-competitive purchase will help the agency ensure it has an adequate power supply to meet customer needs in the years ahead. Additionally, it increases BPA's total certified renewable resource portfolio by roughly 25 percent, from about 207 megawatts to 257 MW.

BPA busy building for wind

In 2007, BPA built two new substations and a double-circuit transmission line to interconnect over 1,000 megawatts from five wind projects. Out of those 1,000 MW, 647 will be on line this year. The new substations may eventually interconnect up to 1,250 MW each from interconnection requests that are already lined up.

The BPA transmission system additions interconnect wind projects built by developers who offer green energy to utilities. The wind developers rely on BPA and other high-voltage transmission providers to carry energy from the wind projects to purchasing utilities.

Projects integrated this year include:

White Creek (200 MW) – built by White Creek LLC.; integrated at the new Rock Creek Substation in Klickitat County, Wash.

Goodnoe Hills (96 MW) – built by Northwest Wind Partners; integrated at Rock Creek Substation. The project has been sold to PacifiCorp.

Biglow Canyon (126 MW) – developed by Orion Energy and sold to Portland General Electric. The project connects to the new BPA 230-kilovolt line from the new John Day Substation in Wasco County, Ore. PGE plans to add more megawatts of capacity at this site.

Klondike III (225 MW) – built by PPM Energy and connected to the new BPA 230-kV line from John Day Substation. PPM plans to add more at this site as well.

Third removable spillway weir installed

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers recently installed a removable spillway weir at Lower Monumental Dam on the lower Snake River in eastern Washington. BPA



This massive spillway weir will allow fish to safely pass through the Lower Monumental Dam. (Photo courtesy of U.S. Army Corps of Engineers)

will repay 94.1 percent of the Corps' \$15 million capital cost for the project as part of its work to improve juvenile fish passage through the hydropower system.

A spillway weir, sometimes called a "fish slide," allows fish to bypass the dam near the water's surface. This offers a more efficient passage route for fish, which tend to stay in the upper 10 to 20 feet of the water column as they migrate to the ocean. Traditional spillways requires fish to dive 50 to 60 feet to find a passage. The fish slides also use much less water to get the same number of fish past the dams.

This is the third of the four lower Snake River dams to be fitted with a spillway weir. Experience at Lower Granite Dam since 2001 and Ice Harbor Dam since 2005 shows a 96 to 98 percent survival rate for fish that pass through the spillway weirs. The federal agencies plan to install spillway weirs or equivalent passage systems at all eight lower Columbia and Snake river dams by 2009.

For more information on spillway weirs, visit the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Web site at www.nwr.usace.army.mil/html/OFFICES/PA/FactSheets/SW_FcShtMay05.pdf.



Decker appointed as COO

Anita Decker has joined BPA as the agency's new chief operating officer. Decker has 27 years of experience working on Northwest electric power operations and issues, most recently at PacifiCorp where she served as a vice president for the company.

BPA's chief operating officer is the number-three position in the agency and oversees the internal management of the major line functions. Reporting to the COO are the senior vice presidents for Power Services and Transmission Services, the executive vice president for Internal Business Services and the vice presidents for Energy Efficiency and Environment, Fish and Wildlife.

Another in-full and on-time payment

BPA has paid the U.S. Treasury \$1.045 billion for fiscal year 2007, which ended Sept. 30. This is the full, scheduled annual payment on the U.S. taxpayer investment in the Federal Columbia River Power System, which includes the federal hydropower dams and transmission system. The payment included interest plus a prepayment of more than \$200 million.

BPA is a self-financed agency that covers its costs with revenues from Northwest ratepayers and other purchasers of its power and transmission products and services. BPA receives no annual appropriations from the U.S. Congress.

"In an environment of rising power costs and increased demands on the federal hydropower and transmission system, this is the 24th year in a row we have paid the U.S. Treasury in full and on time," said Administrator Steve Wright. "Meanwhile, we are holding our wholesale power rates steady for 2008."

BPA was able to keep rates at FY 2007 levels despite water runoff that was only 90 percent of average plus

operations and maintenance costs at the Columbia Generating Station that were higher than expected. Wright said that the agency cut its rates by 3 percent for FY 2007 thanks to good hydro conditions in 2006, innovative collaboration with customers that addressed cash flow risks and a new financial arrangement between BPA and Energy Northwest.

Roach receives presidential award

Randy Roach, BPA executive vice president and general counsel, recently received a Presidential Rank Meritorious Executive Award. Roach, a BPA employee for 23 years, has served in his current position since 2003. This award recognizes his exceptional performance and leadership.

Roach commented that he was "most honored and surprised" by the award and that it was not just recognition of his hard work but of all of the Office of General Counsel's efforts to "provide creative solutions and excellent legal services to help BPA meet its public purposes in a commercial environment."

Each year a small group of career senior executives are recognized for their extended contributions to the federal service. Nominees are evaluated by a panel of distinguished citizens and approved by the president.

Ross-Woodland Tap upgrade complete

BPA completed its Ross-Woodland Tap 230-kV transmission line upgrade on Oct. 20. The line extends from the Ross Substation approximately 20 miles north to the Woodland Tap. The project will allow for the interconnection of up to 300 MW from the Mint Farm Energy Center in Longview, Wash. Construction included replacing switches at the Woodland Tap and Ross Substation and installing shunts over approximately 120 compression fittings.

publicinvolvement

updates and notices

FISH AND WILDLIFE – PROJECTS UNDER REVIEW

Chief Joseph Hatchery Program – Okanogan County, Wash.

The Northwest Power and Conservation Council recommended that BPA study a program sponsored by the Confederated Tribes of the Colville Reservation to assist in conservation and recovery of summer/fall chinook salmon in the Okanogan subbasin and the Columbia River below Chief Joseph Dam. This program would include a new hatchery near the base of Chief Joseph Dam and acclimation ponds throughout the Okanogan River subbasin. The use of the proposed facilities to reintroduce spring chinook salmon to historical habitats in the Okanogan subbasin is also being considered. The program would augment the ceremonial and subsistence harvest of salmon for the Colville Tribe. This program would be designed to have no effect on the operational flexibility of Chief Joseph

Dam. Comments on the draft EIS were accepted through June 18. Public meetings were held in Okanogan and Bridgeport, Wash. A final EIS is planned for February 2008 and a ROD is expected by April 2008. For more information, see BPA's Web site: www.efw.bpa.gov/environmental_services/Document_Library/Chief_Joseph/.

Lyle Falls Fish Passage Project – Klickitat County, Wash.

BPA is preparing an EIS for the proposed Lyle Falls Fish Passage Project. The project addresses the modification and upgrade to the existing fishway in order to meet state and federal fish passage standards. The project would also facilitate the collection of valuable biological information. The draft EIS is being finalized with a scheduled release in winter 2007/08. A public meeting to take comments will follow. For more information, see BPA's Web site: www.efw.bpa.gov/environmental_services/Document_Library/Lyle_Falls/.

Northeast Oregon Hatchery Program, Grande Ronde-Imnaha Spring Chinook Hatchery Project – Wallowa County, Ore.

BPA has conducted value engineering, land acquisition and final design according to the initial ROD signed March 11, 2005. A ROD authorizing construction is planned for winter 2007/08. For more information, see BPA's Web site: www.efw.bpa.gov/environmental_services/Document_Library/Grand_Ronde.

POWER – PROJECTS UNDER REVIEW

Regional Dialogue Policy Implementation – Regionwide

BPA released the Long-Term Regional Dialogue final policy and ROD on July 19. Implementation workshops are being held through November. More information on the workshops and the Regional Dialogue Policy Implementation calendar is available on www.bpa.gov/power/pl/regionaldialogue/implementation/.

TRANSMISSION – PROJECTS UNDER REVIEW

Albeni Falls-Sand Creek Transmission Line Project – Bonner County, Idaho

BPA will replace poles on a section of the Albeni Falls-Sand Creek transmission line in northern Idaho and perform other upgrades to improve the reliability of the line. Approximately 340 wood poles will be replaced along about 25 miles of the existing transmission line. The project area is on an existing right-of-way from the Albeni Falls Dam to one mile north of BPA's Sandpoint Substation. In addition, 17 miles of the line will be reconducted to a larger conductor. Although construction would not begin until 2008 or 2009, BPA employees or contractors will be in the area through the summer performing various activities in support of the project, such as surveying for cultural resources and noxious weeds as well as reviewing the area for dangerous trees. An informational open house was held Aug. 16. For more information, see BPA's Web site: www.transmission.bpa.gov/PlanProj/Transmission_Projects/.

Caribou-Lower Valley Project (includes Hooper Springs Substation) – Caribou County, Idaho

BPA is proposing to build, own, operate and maintain the new Hooper Springs 138/115-kV substation near a proposed PacifiCorp substation near Soda Springs, Idaho. BPA would connect to PacifiCorp's new substation (Threemile Knoll) to improve service to Lower Valley Energy. Lower Valley Energy would construct, own and operate a new 20-mile double-circuit 115-kV transmission line from BPA's new substation to a tap on the Lower Valley Energy transmission system between Lanes Creek and Valley Substations. BPA is proposing to help fund this transmission line with a third-party financing arrangement. BPA held a public scoping meeting on Nov. 1 to discuss the proposed project. For more information, see BPA's Web site: www.efw.bpa.gov/environmental_services/Document_Library/Caribou/. (See calendar of events and close of comment)

Cascade Wind Interconnection Project – Wasco County, Ore.

BPA has been asked by UPC Oregon Wind, LLC to interconnect up to 50-MW of electricity generated from UPC's proposed Cascade Wind Project. UPC would independently build, own and operate the wind project and its associated facilities. The Oregon Energy Facility Siting Council has siting and approval jurisdiction over the proposed wind project. If UPC's project is approved, BPA proposes to construct a new switchyard and tap beneath BPA's existing Hood River-The Dalles 115-kV transmission line. Comments were accepted through Aug. 10, 2007. BPA is preparing an environmental review. For more information, see BPA's Web site: www.transmission.bpa.gov/PlanProj/Wind/default.cfm?page=cascade.

Chehalis-Centralia Transmission Line Rebuild – Lewis County, Wash.

BPA is proposing to rebuild a portion of its 69-kV transmission line to a 115-kV design to address increased industrial loads and other load growth in the area. The line extends from the Chehalis Substation about 15 miles north to the Centralia Substation. The portion to be rebuilt under this project would include only the first 12 miles from Chehalis to Ford's Prairie Tap. Proposed activities include upgrading segments of existing access roads, removing and replacing existing structures and installing new conductor (wires). A minor reroute of less than one mile will likely be needed near Ford's Prairie Substation to accommodate planned Port of Centralia developments. BPA will conduct field surveys and an environmental review in 2007 and 2008. Once the environmental review is complete, BPA will decide whether and how to proceed with the project. If BPA decides to proceed, construction would likely begin in spring 2008 with scheduled completion November 2008.

Columbia-Ellensburg Transmission Line Upgrade – Kittitas County, Wash.

BPA's Columbia-Ellensburg 115-kV transmission line needs upgrades to address line overloads in the area. The portion of line that needs to be upgraded extends from the Ellensburg Substation about 10 miles north to the Schultz Substation and then approximately four miles east toward the Columbia Substation. All existing wood poles and associated hardware would be replaced. Most new poles would be located in or as close to existing holes as possible. A portion of the existing conductor may be replaced to meet current industry standards. Three switches would also be replaced. Some existing access roads may need improvements and additional access routes may need to be purchased. BPA will conduct environmental field surveys to complete the environmental review. If BPA decides to proceed with the project, construction would likely begin in spring 2008 with a scheduled completion date of June 2009.

Libby (Flathead Electric Cooperative)-to-Troy Section of the Libby-to-Bonnars Ferry 115-kV Transmission Line Rebuild – Lincoln County, Mont.

BPA is proposing to rebuild a 17-mile section of the Libby-to-Bonnars Ferry 115-kV transmission line to improve reliability and meet future load growth in Lincoln County, Mont. BPA issued a draft EIS on July 20 and held a public meeting Aug. 15. Comments were accepted through Sept. 4. For more information, see BPA's Web site: www.transmission.bpa.gov/PlanProj/Transmission_Projects/.

McNary-Badger Canyon Transmission Line Rebuild – Benton County, Wash.

BPA is proposing to rebuild its McNary-Badger Canyon 115-kV transmission line outside of Kennewick, Wash. The line extends 18.3 miles from the river crossing north of McNary Substation northeast and then west toward Badger Canyon. The line was built in 1949 and many of the wood poles and cross arms are in need of replacement. In addition, BPA was requested by Energy Northwest to interconnect 32 MW from the Nine Canyon wind farm near Kennewick, Wash. BPA needs to upgrade the McNary-Badger Canyon transmission line to provide the wind farm adequate transmission capacity and include adding a new transformer at the Nine Canyon Tap, replacing most of the wood poles with new wood poles that are five to 10 feet taller than the originals and replacing the wire. BPA is currently conducting an environmental review, including cultural resource surveys of the proposed project area. If BPA decides to proceed with the project, construction could begin in spring 2008.

Olympic Peninsula Reinforcement Project – Thurston and Mason Counties, Wash.

BPA is proposing to replace a 14.5 mile portion of an existing 115-kV transmission line between Olympia and Shelton Substations with a double-circuit 230-kV line. This project would also require adding equipment at the two substations. This would improve voltage stability during winter-peak load conditions on the Olympic Peninsula. BPA expects to release a preliminary EA in fall 2007. If BPA decides to proceed with this project and no significant impact is found in the EA, construction could begin in late 2007. For more information, see BPA's Web site: www.transmission.bpa.gov/PlanProj/Transmission_Projects/.

Palisades-Goshen Transmission Line Rebuild – Bonneville and Bingham Counties, Idaho

The Palisades-Goshen 115-kV transmission line was built in 1949. The line extends from Palisades Dam in eastern Idaho approximately 52 miles west to BPA's Goshen Substation south of Idaho Falls, Idaho. The majority of the wood poles and cross arms are in need of replacement. BPA proposes to rebuild this line due to its age and deteriorated condition to ensure safe and reliable transmission service. Field work has been completed and BPA expects to issue an EA in early 2008. For more information, see BPA's Web site: www.transmission.bpa.gov/PlanProj/Transmission_Projects/.

Port Angeles Juan de Fuca Transmission Project – Port Angeles, Wash.

BPA released the final EIS on Oct. 4. The EIS evaluates the request from Sea Breeze Olympic Converter LP to interconnect a 550-MW transmission cable to the Federal Columbia River Transmission System. The cable would run from Vancouver Island, B.C., across the Strait of Juan de Fuca to Port Angeles, Wash. BPA expects to issue a ROD in November or December to determine if it will allow the interconnection. For more information, see BPA's Web site: www.transmission.bpa.gov/PlanProj/Transmission_Projects/.

Reardan Twin Buttes Wind Energy Project Interconnection – Lincoln County, Wash

BPA has been asked by Energy Northwest to interconnect 75 MW of power to be generated by the proposed Reardan Twin Buttes Wind Energy Project into the Federal Columbia River Transmission System. Energy Northwest has obtained a Conditional Use Permit from Lincoln County for the proposed wind project. BPA proposes to build a new substation, the Riffe Road Substation, and interconnect the wind project. BPA expected to accept comments on its proposal through Nov. 2. However, the comment period and proposal has been delayed until later this year. A tiered ROD would be prepared for this project if the decision to integrate the project is consistent with BPA's Business Plan ROD, August 1995 and Business Plan EIS, June 1995.

Summer Falls/Main Canal Interconnection Project – Grant and Douglas Counties, Wash.

BPA proposed to interconnect 122 MW of generation from Summer Falls and Main Canal hydropower projects to the federal transmission grid. The proposal includes constructing a new 230-kV substation (Pinto Ridge) in Grant County, and a new communications site (Banks Lake) in Douglas County. It also includes construction of six miles of new 115-kV transmission line between Main Canal and the new Pinto Ridge Substation, three miles of new 115-kV transmission line between

Summer Falls and Pinto Ridge and a new 115-kV substation adjacent to the proposed substation. Seattle City Light and Tacoma Power requested the interconnection, but are currently evaluating other alternative actions. This project is on hold. For more information, see BPA's Web site: www.transmission.bpa.gov/PlanProj/Transmission_Projects/.

Walker Mountain Communications Tower – Klamath County, Ore.

BPA proposes constructing a new building and 100-foot communications tower at Walker Mountain located near Chemult, Ore. The building and tower are part of a larger BPA project to replace outdated communications equipment with more reliable technology. This tower would be used by BPA to help maintain and operate the transmission system safely and reliably. The new building and tower would have limited space for joint use. (See close of comment)

TRANSMISSION – PROJECTS UNDER CONSTRUCTION

Klondike III/Biglow Canyon Wind Integration Project – Sherman County, Ore.

Construction is complete on the John Day Substation and transmission line connecting the wind projects to John Day Substation. For more information, see BPA's Web site: www.transmission.bpa.gov/PlanProj/Wind/.

Rock Creek Substation – Klickitat County, Wash.

Construction is complete on Rock Creek Substation. For more information, see BPA's Web site: www.transmission.bpa.gov/PlanProj/Wind/.

Ross-Woodland Tap Transmission Line Upgrade – Clark County, Wash.

Construction is complete on the Ross-Woodland Tap transmission line upgrade. The line was energized on Oct. 20.

SUPPLEMENT ANALYSES

SA-344-Toledo – Wendson No. 1, Lincoln and Lane Counties, Ore.

SA-345-Olympia – Shelton No. 3, Olympia-Kitsap No. 3, Thurston and Mason Counties, Wash.

SA-346-North Bonneville – Troutdale No. 2, Skamania and Clark Counties, Wash.

SA-347- Shelton – Kitsap, Thurston, Mason and Kitsap Counties, Wash.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

To view BPA's Public Involvement calendar, visit this link: www.bpa.gov/corporate/public_affairs/Calendar/.

Caribou-Lower Valley Project public meeting

Nov. 1, 5 to 7 p.m. – Soda Springs Ranger District, 410 Hooper Ave., Soda Springs, Idaho

CLOSE OF COMMENT

Nov. 15 – Walker Mountain communications tower

Nov. 16 – Caribou-Lower Valley Project (also known as Hooper Springs-Lower Valley 115-kV transmission line)

The Journal is a monthly publication of the Bonneville Power Administration. If you have questions or comments, or you want to be added to the mailing list for any project, call toll free (800) 622-4519.

To order copies of documents, call: (800) 622-4520 or (503) 230-7334. Written comments may be sent to: BPA, P.O. Box 14428, Portland, OR 97293-4428. E-mail address: comment@BPA.gov. BPA home page: www.bpa.gov. For details on BPA environmental reviews listed above, including site maps and documents issued to date, see www.efw.bpa.gov/environmental_services/nepadocs.aspx. Process Abbreviations: EA-Environmental Assessment, EIS-Environmental Impact Statement, ESA-Endangered Species Act, FONSI-Finding of No Significant Impact, NOI-Notice of Intent, ROD-Record of Decision.

